

**New Jersey Department of Transportation
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY**

CAPITAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Director: Tina Shutz Telephone: (609) 963-1110

QIA No.: 066


Andrés Roda for:

Approved: Tina Shutz
Date:

Process Affected:

Scope Design Right of Way Utilities Environmental Historic Construction

Bureaus Affected:

Procedure(s) Affected:

Restricting Foreign Drones (Effective Dec 22, 2025)

Nature of Issue(s):

Effective December 22, 2025, the American Security Drone Act of 2023 (ASDA) and OMB Memorandum M-26-02 strictly prohibit the use of federal funds for UAS manufactured by "covered foreign entities". "Covered UAS" includes any aircraft, flight controller, camera, or ground control station supplied by a manufacturer that is based in, or subject to the control of, a foreign adversary country, specifically the People's Republic of China. Popular manufacturers such as DJI and Autel Robotics are on the prohibited list.

Contractors must cease their operation, maintenance, or data processing on any FHWA funded project or grant with any covered UAS drones in their existing fleet.

Recommendation(s):

1. All contractors and/or consultants must ensure no pending orders for this equipment will be paid for with federal funds.
2. If existing fleet includes these covered UAS, the contractors and/or consultants must cease their operation, maintenance, or data processing on any FHWA funded project or grant.
3. It is recommended that contractors and/or consultants physically quarantine these devices to prevent accidental use on federally funded projects.

Impact Assessment:

Schedule Quality Cost Scope

Cost Impact:

None

Implementation: Immediate



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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December 19, 2025

To All NJDOT Staff Managing Federal Contracts:

Subject: Important Notice Regarding the American Security Drone Act of 2023 (ASDA) and OMB Memorandum M-26-02 on Restricting Foreign Drones (Effective Dec 22, 2025)

The Bureau of Aeronautics is writing to inform you about significant changes that will impact the use of federal funds for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Effective December 22, 2025, the American Security Drone Act of 2023 (ASDA) and OMB Memorandum M-26-02 will strictly prohibit the use of federal funds for UAS manufactured by covered foreign entities.

What All Contractors and Consultants Need to Know:

The Ban: You may no longer use Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds (including grants, loans, or cooperative agreements) to procure, operate, or maintain "covered UAS."

What is "Covered UAS": This includes any aircraft, flight controller, camera, or ground control station supplied by a manufacturer that is based in, or subject to the control of, a foreign adversary country, specifically the People's Republic of China. Popular manufacturers such as DJI and Autel Robotics are on the prohibited list.

Required Actions:

- Stop Procurements:** The contractors and/or consultants must ensure no pending orders for this equipment will be paid for with federal funds.
- Cease Operations:** If existing fleet includes these covered UAS, the contractors and/or consultants must cease their operation, maintenance, or data processing on any FHWA funded project or grant.
- Segregate Assets:** It is recommended that contractors and/or consultants physically quarantine these devices to prevent accidental use on federally funded projects.

It is the responsibility of all Contractors and Consultants working on federal projects to take immediate action to comply with these new regulations. Failure to do so may result in non-compliance with federal funding requirements.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kimbrali Davis

Kimbrali L. Davis, Executive Manager

Bureau of Aeronautics, Outdoor Advertising & Junkyards
Division of Local Resources & Community Development
New Jersey Department of Transportation